

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SAN SA 02982 122126Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 MCT-01 SY-05 HA-05 ACDA-12 ITC-01
TRSE-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 INR-10 LAB-04
NSAE-00 SIL-01 SCS-06 CA-01 PM-05 H-01 L-03
NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 /112 W
-----035517 130257Z /70

R 122102Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8423
INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
AMEMBASSY PANAMA
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA
DIA WASHDC
USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS CZ
USDOC WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAN SALVADOR 2982

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ELAB, PINT, AHUM, ASEC, ES
SUBJECT: ACTING MANAXSER EABLE INTERNATIONAL RETURNING TO EL
SALVADOR

REF: (A) SAN SALVADOR A-07, (B) 77 SAN SALVADOR 5234,
(C) SAN SALVADOR 2916, (D) SAN SALVADOR 2955

1. COMATT RECEIVED CALL SUNDAYSMORNING 6/11/78 FROM RALPH NAGREEN, GEN. MGR. OF EAGLE INTERNATIONAL, IN UNXS. TO DISCUSS FIRM'S CURRENT AND FUTURE STATUS IN EL SWTVADOR.
2. WHEN ASKED BY NAGREEN IF THE SITUAORON IN SAN SALVADOR HAD CHANGED OVER THE LAST FEW DAYS, COMATT REPLIED THAT THE SITUATION REMAINED BASICALLY THE SAME, EXCEPT FOR THE RELEASE OF MENDEZ NOVOA, ONE OF THE TWO SALVADORANS KIDNAPPED MAY 14.

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PAGE 02 SAN SA 02982 122126Z

3. NAGREEN THEN WENT ON TO SAY THAT JOHN VANDERBERG, ACTING GEN. MGR. OF EAGLE INTERNATIONAL IN NAGREEN'S ALSENCE, WILL RETURN TO EL SALVADOR TUESDAY, 6/13/78. PER REFTEL D, VANDERBERG, ACCOMPANIED BY HIS WIFE AND THE FIRM'S ONLY OTHER U.S. EXPATRIATE EMPLOYEE, HASTILY DEPARTED SAN SALVADOR TUESDAY, 6/6/78 AFTER LEARNING OFHA KIDNAP THREAT AND ON ORDERS

FROM THE U.S. PARONT FIRM, ZWICKER KNITTING MILLS OF APPLETON,
WISCONSIN,
VANDERBERG WILL BE RETURNING UNACCOMPANIED.

4. MOREOVER, NAGREEN INDICATED THAT WHILE A DECISION HAD
BEEN MADE PRIOR TO VANDERBERG'S DEPARTURE TO CLOSE DOWN EAGLE
INTERNATIONAL, CURRENTLY EMPLOYING 528 IN THE SAN BARTOLO ZONE
FRANCA, THE DECISION WAS SUBSEQUENTLY REVERSED IN LIGHT OF THE
UNEXPECTEDLY HIGH COST OF LABOR INDEMNIFICATION.

5. NOTWITHSTANDING THE ABOVE, POTENTIAL LABOR PROBLEMS WITH
NEWLY INSTALLED AND ALLEGEDLY POLITICIZED UNION DIRECTORATE,
PERCEIVED SELL OUT BY MINISTRY OF LABOR IN ACCEDING TO UNION'S
CLAIM THAT IT HAD RECEIVED THE NECESSARY 51 PERCENT EMPLOYEE
REPRESENTATION (UNDER VERY QUESTIONABLE CIRCUMSTANCES), LAGGING
PRODUCTION CAUSING DELAYS IN MEETING ORDERS, ALLEGATIONS THAT
OTHER FIRMS LOCATED IN SAN BARTOLO ARE PRESSURING THE GOES TO
EXPUL EAGLE FROM THE ZONA FRANCA TO AVOID FURTHER LABOR PROBLEMS
AND FINALLY, THE CONTINUING SPECTRE OF A KIDNAP THREAT AGAINST
THE MANAGER, ALL COMBINE TO RENDER EAGLE INTERNATIONAL'S FUTURE
STATUS PRECARIOUS, TO SAY THE LEAST.

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Message Attributes

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Disposition History: n/a
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